

Appl. No. 10/742,691  
Amdt. Dated March 20, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 20, 2006

Docket No. CE12487JDP

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communication device during an emergency situation, comprising:

receiving, at the mobile communication device, from a communication system, an emergency message;

transitioning the mobile communication device from a regular mode of operation to an emergency mode of operation in response to receiving the emergency message; and

allowing only a positive status message to be transmitted from the mobile communication device while in the emergency mode of operation.

2. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, further comprising alerting a user of the mobile communication device in response to receiving the emergency message.

3. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 2, wherein alerting the user comprises providing a visual alert.

4. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 3, wherein providing a visual alert comprises illuminating a status response button of the mobile communication device.

5. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 3, wherein providing a visual alert comprises displaying an icon on a display of the mobile communication device.

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6. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 2, wherein alerting the user comprises providing an audible alert.

7. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 2, wherein alerting the user comprises providing an tactile alert.

8. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 2, wherein providing the tactile alert comprises actuating a mechanical vibrator of the mobile communication device.

9. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, wherein receiving the emergency message comprises receiving the emergency message in a broadcast control channel transmitted by the communication system.

10. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, wherein allowing only the positive status message to be transmitted comprises transmitting the positive status message in response to actuation of a status response button.

11. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, wherein allowing only the positive status message to be transmitted comprises transmitting the positive status message in a short message service message.

12. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, wherein allowing only the positive status message to be transmitted comprises transmitting the positive status message to a remote party via the communication system.

13. (original) A method of operating a mobile communication device as defined in claim 1, wherein allowing only the positive status message to be transmitted comprises transmitting the positive status message to a status update server of the communication system.

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14. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communication system during an emergency situation, comprising:

determining which of a plurality of serving cells of the mobile communication system are affected cells, the affected cells being serving cells affected by the emergency situation[.];

broadcasting in each of the affected cells an emergency notification message; and

providing communication service to mobile communication devices which are either transmitting a status message while operating in an emergency mode or are known emergency responders, and denying communication service to all other mobile communication devices.

15. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communication system during an emergency situation, comprising:

receiving a channel request from a mobile communication device at a base station, the base station having been determined to be in an area affected by the emergency situation;

if the channel request indicates the mobile communication device is operating in an emergency mode and intends to transmit a status message, granting the request, receiving the status message from the mobile communication device, and forwarding the status message to a remote party[.];

if the channel request indicates the mobile communication device is an emergency subscriber, granting the request and allowing the emergency subscriber to have normal communication service; and

ignoring the channel request if the channel request is not from an emergency subscriber or [[for]] from a mobile communication device transmitting a status message while operating in an emergency mode.

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16. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communication device of an emergency subscriber during an emergency situation, comprising:

broadcasting from a base station of a communication system an emergency message, the emergency message causing non-emergency subscriber devices to operate in an emergency mode where they will only transmit a status message, the base station having been determined to be located in an area affected by an emergency situation;

transmitting a communication service request to ~~[[a]]~~ the base station, the base station operating in an emergency mode, the communication service request containing a subscriber identifier for identifying the subscriber as an emergency subscriber;

receiving at the mobile communication device a channel assignment indicating an assigned channel to be used by the emergency subscriber; and

commencing communication on the assigned channel by the emergency subscriber.

17. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communication system during an emergency situation, the mobile communication system having an emergency profile server, the method comprising:

broadcasting in at least one cell of a communication system an emergency message indicating the emergency situation;

receiving a status service request over a random access channel at a base station of the mobile communication system from a subscriber, the subscriber operating in an emergency mode in response to the emergency message;

retrieving an emergency profile corresponding to the subscriber, the emergency profile stored on the emergency profile server, the emergency profile indicating at least one party to be contacted in the event of an emergency situation; and

transmitting a status message to the at least one party indicated in the emergency profile.